

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

SAB-01 DRC-01 /126 W

----- 081309

R 161120Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6747

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1966

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, UN, SA

SUBJ: SAUDI CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA

REF : STATE 72509

1. ON SUNDAY, APRIL 14, AND AGAIN YESTERDAY (APRIL 22)
I ASKED SAYYID OMAR SAQQAF, SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IF SAUDI CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA COULD
NOT BE INCREASED. I GAVE HIM ALL THE REASONS FOR DOING
SO. HE REPLIED THAT HE AGREED COMPLETELY; SUCH ACTION IS
REQUIRED NOT ONLY FOR THE POLITICAL GAINS THE SAUDIS

COULD EXPECT IN THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE, BUT BE-
CAUSE IT IS A MORAL NECESSITY. YESTERDAY HE SAID HE HAD
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DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH OTHERJ WHO WANTED HIM TO ASK

ME HOW MUCH I THOUGHT SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD CONTRIBUTE.

2. I DID NOT EXPECT THIS RESPONSE, BUT SUGGESTED TO SAYYID OMAR THAT SAUDI ARABIA MIGHT WISH TO COVER THE ENTIRE PAST AND PROJECTED DEFICIT OF \$15.5 MILLION AND TO CONTRIBUTE ALSO THE \$8.5 MILLION NEEDED TO IMPROVE FACILITIES AND THE \$5 MILLION TO SUPPLEMENT UNRWA'S CAPITAL OPERATING FUND. I STRESSED THAT WERE SAG TO COME FORWARD WITH THIS RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT, THE EFFECT ON THE U.S. CONGRESS AND PUBLIC WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE DRAMATIC. SAQQAF SAID HE WOULD TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE KING AND LET ME KNOW THE SAUDI RESPONSE ASAP.

3. THERE IS A LARGE AND GROWING OPPOSITION IN THE KINGDOM, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE KING'S BROTHERS, TO FURTHER LARGESSE ABROAD. STILL, I THINK IF SAYYID OMAR TAKES THE MATTER UP DIRECTLY WITH THE KING (AS HE HAS SAID HE WOULD), WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPECT A FAIRLY LARGE SAUDI CONTRIBUTION.

AKINS

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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